

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

a registering unit configured to register ~~means for registering~~ a maker group of ~~interfaced makers~~ having interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper maker to a lower maker of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device, including:

an organizing unit configured to organize ~~means for organizing~~ the a maker group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow of ~~to manufacture~~ the a semiconductor device in collaboration with one another;

a confirming unit configured to confirm ~~means for confirming~~ the interfaces among the makers in the organized maker group, ~~the interfaces serving to hand over materials among the makers to complete a semiconductor device~~; and

a recording unit configured to record ~~means for recording~~ the interface-confirmed maker group; and

an introducing unit configured to introduce ~~means for introducing~~ the maker group ~~groups of interfaced makers having the interfaces registered through the registering means~~, including:

a retrieving unit configured to retrieve ~~means for retrieving~~ the maker group ~~groups that satisfy~~ satisfies specifications set for the a given semiconductor device.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said registering unit means includes an inviting unit configured to invite ~~means for inviting the~~ makers.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit means includes a selecting unit configured to assist ~~means for selecting one of the retrieved maker group groups selected for placing the order for manufacturing the semiconductor device as a maker group to which a manufacturing order is placed.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit means includes an assisting unit configured to assist ~~means for assisting to determine the specifications specification determination.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit means includes a scheduling unit configured to schedule ~~means for scheduling delivery dates when along which the makers in one of the retrieved maker group groups hand over the intermediate results materials to complete the given semiconductor device.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): A computer program implemented by a computer for assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, the computer program comprising:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to register ~~registering a maker group of interfaced makers having interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results~~

from an upper maker to a lower maker of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device, including:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to organize ~~organizing~~  
the a maker group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow  
of to manufacture the a semiconductor device in collaboration with one another;

a function implemented by the computer, configured to confirm ~~confirming~~  
the interfaces among the makers in the organized maker group, the interfaces serving  
to hand over materials among the makers to complete a semiconductor device; and

a function implemented by the computer, configured to record ~~recording~~ the  
interface-confirmed maker group; and

a function implemented by the computer, configured to introduce ~~introducing the~~  
maker group ~~groups of interfaced makers having the interfaces registered through the~~  
~~registering means, including:~~

a function implemented by the computer, configured to retrieve ~~retrieving the~~  
maker group ~~groups~~ that ~~satisfy~~ satisfies specifications set for ~~the a given~~  
semiconductor device.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to register ~~registering~~ includes a function implemented by  
the computer, configured to invite ~~inviting the~~ makers.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce ~~introducing~~ includes a function implemented by  
the computer, configured to select ~~selecting one of the retrieved maker group groups selected~~

for placing the order for manufacturing the semiconductor device as a maker group to which  
a manufacturing order is placed.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce ~~introducing~~ includes a function implemented by  
the computer, configured to assist ~~assisting to determine the specifications~~ specification  
determination.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce ~~introducing~~ includes a function implemented by  
the computer, configured to schedule ~~scheduling~~ delivery dates when ~~along which the~~ makers  
~~in one~~ of the retrieved maker group ~~groups~~ hand over the intermediate results ~~materials to~~  
~~complete the given semiconductor device.~~

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A data structure usable for assisting the placing of an order  
for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

an area to store the names of makers; and

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store categories in a one-  
to-one relationship with the makers.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 11, further comprising:

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store features in a one-to-  
one relationship with the makers.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes the manufacturing capability and accuracy of the maker.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes the names of makers with which the maker in question desires to be interfaced and the names of makers with which the maker in question is already interfaced.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes a turnaround time needed by the maker to manufacture a semiconductor device and a price charged by the maker to manufacture the semiconductor device.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A data structure usable for assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

an area to store categories of semiconductor device manufacture; and

an area related to said area to store categories, to store the names of makers in a maker group that has manufactured a semiconductor device, in a one-to-one relationship with the categories.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 16, further comprising:

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store manufacturing capability indexes of each maker in a one-to-one relationship with the names of makers.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 17, wherein:

the manufacturing capability indexes of each maker include a turnaround time needed by the maker to manufacture a semiconductor device and a price charged by the maker to manufacture the semiconductor device.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer implemented method of assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

registering a maker group ~~of interfaced makers~~ having interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper maker to a lower maker of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device, including:

organizing the a maker group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow of to manufacture the a semiconductor device in collaboration with one another;

confirming the interfaces among the makers in the organized maker group, ~~the interfaces serving to hand over materials among the makers to complete a semiconductor device~~; and

recording the interface-confirmed maker group; and

introducing the maker group ~~groups of interfaced makers~~ having the interfaces registered through the registering, including:

retrieving the maker group ~~groups~~ that ~~satisfy~~ satisfies specifications set for the a given semiconductor device.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19, wherein:

said registering a maker group includes inviting the makers.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19,  
wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes assisting selecting one of the retrieved maker group groups selected for placing the order for manufacturing the semiconductor device as a maker group to which a manufacturing order is placed.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19,  
wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes assisting to determine the specifications  
specification determination.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19,  
wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes scheduling delivery dates when along which  
the makers in one of the retrieved maker group groups hand over the intermediate results  
materials to complete the given semiconductor device.